E 356
.L9 H2

THE TWENTY-FIRST'S TROPHY

of

Niagara

By

CELWYN E. HAMPTON
Captain and Commissary Twenty-first Infantry
UNITED STATES ARMY

E35½
L9 H2

COPYRIGHTED 1909
CELWYN E. HAMPTON

162467

© July 8, 1909
Cla. A, 243561
JUL 13 1909

THE SOUL OF OUR SAMURAI

The swords that once in battle rang,
And smote their way to glory,
Now hang, in silence, on our walls,
Scarce known to song or story.

The patriot hands that wielded them
Have long to clay been turning,
But on our hearths their sturdy strength
Built fires that yet are burning.

The flag that once our columns led
Is now but rags and tatters,
And, one by one, its silken threads,
In formless dust it scatters.

The men that bore it, long ago,
Beneath the sod are sleeping,
But yet they live, in us again;
Our lives are in their keeping.

Oh! guard ye well what they have won,
Their prizes, nobly given;
Their knightly souls still bid us on,
To strive as they have striven.

COAT OF ARMS
TWENTY-FIRST INFANTRY
UNITED STATES ARMY

Quarterly—1. Argent, on a cross gules, a lion passant Guardant or.

2. Gules, a saltire az., bordered ar., charged with 13 stars of the last.

3. Quarterly—1. and 4. Gules, a castle of Castile or. 2. and 3. Azure, three stars or., within an equilateral triangle argent.

4. Argent, a quiver gules, charged with ornaments or., fringed sable, containing four arrows of the last.

Over all an oval inescutcheon in pretence, Gules, a cannon or.

Crest. A star voided of twenty-one points enclosing the figures 21 and the letters U. S. all or.

Motto: "I'll try, sir."

Historical Description of the Coat of Arms of the Twenty-first Infantry

This Coat of Arms was designed and drawn by the author during the winter of 1906-1907, and was adopted by the officers of the regiment in May, 1907.

Its purpose is to indicate the history of the regiment and its name.

The escutcheon is divided quarterly, each quarter bearing charges that represent one or more wars in which the Twenty-first Infantry has been engaged.

The first quarter, indicative of the War of 1812, is of a silver field, bearing a rectangular red cross upon which is charged, in gold, a lion of the royal English form. Without the lion this quarter is a reproduction of the British man-of-war's flag with the canton omitted.

The second quarter, indicative of the Civil War of 1861-1865, is of a red field, bearing a silver cross of the Greek form. On this is charged a blue cross of the same form, and on the latter are charged thirteen silver stars. The whole is a reproduction of the battle flag of the Confederacy.

The third quarter is divided quarterly. The first and fourth, of a red field, are charged with the castle of Castile, from the Spanish Coat of Arms, and indicate the Spanish-American War. The second and third, of a blue field, are charged with an equilateral triangle of silver, inclosing, in its angles, three stars of gold. These are the Katipunan symbols and indicate the Philippine Insurrection.

The fourth quarter, of a silver field, is charged with a red quiver containing four arrows of black and fringed with hair of the same. The quiver is also charged with a sun and minor designs of gold. The whole indicates the Indian campaigns in which the regiment bore a part. These were against the Apaches, in Arizona, in 1869-70; the Modocs, in Oregon and California, in 1873; the Nez Percés, in Idaho, in 1877; and the Bannocks and Pi Utes, in Oregon, in 1878.

An oval inescutcheon, centrally located, is borne as an augmentation of honor, being of a red field charged with a gold cannon.

Motto, in gold on a blue scroll beneath the escutcheon, "I'll try, sir." This as well as the augmentation above described, is derived from the incidents of the battle of Niagara, July 25th, 1814. Colonel James Miller, then in command of the Twenty-first Infantry, being ordered to capture a British battery located in a commanding position, replied in the words we have used as our motto. The regiment charged and captured the battery, and held it against repeated, desperate attempts at recapture, although almost destroyed in so doing.

The crest is a twenty-one pointed star whose center is voided and encloses the number 21 and the letters U. S., all in gold.

The supporters are two rifles, of gold, crossed behind the shield. The crest and supporters show the name of the regiment.

CAPTURE OF THE BRITISH BATTERY BY THE TWENTY-FIRST INFANTRY
AT THE BATTLE OF NIAGARA

THE BATTLE OF NIAGARA

The combat to which our popular historical works of the present day refer as that of Lundy's Lane is known in official English records as the Battle of Niagara. It was by that name that reference was made to it in our own earlier accounts and it seems regretable that the custom did not continue. It is only by a freak of nomenclature that it has come to bear the name of one of the most unimportant, instead of that of the most significant of the topographical features in the vicinity of which it was fought. Lossing, in his Field Book of the War of 1812, discusses this subject as follows:

The battle was fought within sight and hearing of the great Falls of Niagara, and should bear that dignified name. It was so in one of the first published accounts of it. "The Battle of Niagara," said the Albany *Argus*, at the beginning of August, "commands, like the achievements of our naval heroes, the admiration of all classes of the American people, a few excepted." The hottest of the contest having occurred in the struggle for the battery in *Lundy's Lane* caused the battle to be called after the name of that road. About a mile above the field of battle, on the banks of the Niagara, were mills called *The Bridgewater Mills*. A person attached to the American Army, but not in the battle, wrote while it was in progress to some friend in the interior of New York, saying that a great battle was then raging near the Bridgewater Mills. This letter was published extensively, and the conflict was called the *Battle of Bridgewater*. It was so announced in *Niles' Register*, August 13, 1814.

In some measure, however, the Twenty-first should have a sense of satisfaction in the name "Lundy's Lane," for it was that very "hottest of the contest," the struggle for the battery, that the regiment fought and won.

At sunset, in the evening of July 25th, 1814, General Winfield Scott's brigade, advancing down the Niagara River, on the Canadian side, found itself confronted by the British Army drawn up on rising ground a short distance below the Falls. Although greatly outnumbered and overmatched in artillery, Scott unhesitatingly engaged the enemy and sent word to General Brown, at Chippewa, of the perilous situation. The latter ordered General Ripley forward and hastened to the battlefield. At nine o'clock, P. M., Ripley's brigade, consisting of the Twenty-first and Twenty-third Infantry regiments, with a detachment of the First, arrived upon the scene. Scott's troops were exhausted and scattered by the continuous fighting, and Ripley's were at once pushed forward to form a new line.

A British battery of seven guns posted on a hill in the center of their line, near a road called Lundy's Lane, was seen to be the key of their position. Turning to Colonel James Miller, who commanded the Twenty-first Infantry, General Brown said, "Colonel, take your regiment, storm that work and take it." Colonel Miller's prompt reply, "I'll try, sir," is one of the few sentient speeches of the battlefield that our history has delighted to transmit from generation to generation.

In the dim moonlight the Twenty-first climbed the hill until it reached a rail fence near the battery. Resting their muskets on this fence, our men poured in a volley that killed or wounded every one of the gunners, rushed into the battery and took possession of the guns. A British line, lying in support, fired with deadly effect and then charged, with intent to retake them with the bayonet, but were driven back. Three times they made desperate efforts to recapture the battery, but the Twenty-first doggedly held its ground. The combatants were so close that the fire from their muskets crossed, and it is said that the buttons on the enemies' uniforms could plainly be distinguished by its light. The Twenty-first suffered fearful losses and must inevitably have been expelled from its hard won position had not Ripley, with the First and Twenty-third, come to its aid. The enemy, having also been heavily re-enforced, made three more unsuccessful assaults and then retired from the field.

General Brown complimented the regiment and its commander in the highest terms and presented to it one of the captured guns, a beautiful bronze six-pounder, "in testimony of its distinguished gallantry." In addressing Colonel Miller he said, "You have immortalized yourself;" and passing years have proved his prophecy correct.

In this desperate struggle the Twenty-first lost one hundred and twenty-six killed and wounded, or forty-five per cent. of its entire strength, the regiment having entered with less than three hundred men.

The battle was won against odds of almost two to one, and from a foe that numbered in his ranks many of Wellington's veterans, trained on the battle-fields of the Spanish Peninsula. As an example of calculating courage, of tenacious persistence and of headlong bravery, our history contains none more brilliant, nor is it likely to show, in the future, one more glorious. Time cannot dim the luster of such deeds.

Our army retired, that night, to Chippewa, and, being without horses, was unable to remove the captured battery. Six of the guns returned to the hands of their original owners when the British troops reoccupied the ground next morning. The seventh was carried away by the Twenty-first and kept by the regiment, through all its vicissitudes, until the peace reorganization in the summer of 1815.

This gun finally disappeared from view and, so far as was known to any of us, was lost. The following correspondence shows in what manner is was again discovered and its identity proved:

WASHINGTON, June 11th, 1908.

To the Chief of Ordnance, U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.

Sir:—I have the honor to request that the following matter be considered by your office and any information available on the subject be furnished me for the purpose of compiling some historical facts regarding the Twenty-first U. S. Infantry during the War of 1812.

At the battle of Lundy's Lane, on the night of July 25-26, 1814, the Twenty-first Infantry, under Colonel Miller, assaulted and captured a British battery of seven guns on a hill, and held them through the night against repeated British assaults. This action is one of the most celebrated in American history. When the American army withdrew, however, the guns, excepting one small, brass six-pounder, were left behind and again fell into the hands of the British.

Colonel Miller, in a letter written from Fort Erie, on July 28, 1814, states: "After Generals Brown, Scott and others were wounded we were ordered to return back to our camp, about three miles, and preparations had not been made for the taking of the cannon. It was impossible for me to defend it and make preparations for that too, and it was all left upon the ground except one beautiful brass six-pounder which was made a present to my regiment in testimony of their distinguished gallantry."

The Twenty-first, with the remainder of Brown's army, retired to Chippewa and from there to Ft. Erie, where they later engaged in its defense against a British assault, and in a sortie against the British works. I believe they went to Buffalo about October 24, 1814, and, so far as I know, remained there until they were combined with three or four other regiments, in the summer of 1815, to form the Fifth Infantry.

If this gun of which Colonel Miller speaks can be traced, I should like greatly to be informed of its present whereabouts.

Any communication on the subject should be addressed to me at Fort Logan, Colorado.

Very respectfully,

CELWYN E. HAMPTON,
Capt. & Commissary, Twenty-first Infantry.

33920–56 1st Endorsement.

Office of the Chief of Ordnance,
Washington, June 12, 1908.

Respectfully transmitted to the Commanding Officers of the following named arsenals in the order named, for report: Augusta, San Antonio, Benicia, Rock Island, Frankford, New York, Watertown and Watervliet.

By order of the Chief of Ordnance:

JNO. T. THOMPSON,
Major, Ord. Dept., U. S. Army.

33920–56 2d Endorsement. 65–125

Augusta Arsenal, June 16, 1908.

Respectfully returned to the Chief of Ordnance, U. S. A., Washington, D. C., through the Commanding Officer, San Antonio Arsenal, San Antonio, Texas, with the information that there are no bronze 6-pdr. guns at this arsenal of British manufacture, or answering to the description given within.

D. A. Lyle,
Colonel, Ord. Dept., U. S. A., Commanding.

33920–56 3d Endorsement. 10–71

San Antonio Arsenal, Texas, June 21st, 1908.

1. Respectfully returned to the Chief of Ordnance, U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.

2. Among the trophies at this arsenal is one which answers to the description given within, as follows: 1 small bronze 6-pdr. S. B. gun, English, caliber 3″ .67. Marks, on swell of muzzle—rose, shamrock and thistle combined. Between the trunnions, crown and motto "honi soit qui mal y pense," with large letter M within circle. First reinforce, crown with maltese cross attached, and under same "GR," with figure 2 connected with body of G. On base ring, "W. B. O. 1756." On right trunnion, "O. N. J. 5." On base of breech, "2-3-8."

This gun is spiked, and at some time has been painted or lacquered, but this has been partially scraped off.

The retained property returns of this arsenal show as taken up December 31, 1873, with other trophies not before accounted for, 1 6 pdr. gun, English, 3″ .67.

The presumption is that this gun is the same as that referred to within, and that it was at some time left at some post in this department, and was, on the abandonment of that post, turned in to this arsenal. Sketch enclosed made encl. 1.

Charles H. Clark,
Lt.-Col. Ord. Dept., U. S. A., Commanding.

33920–56 4th Endorsement. jjc—lcf

Office of the Chief or Ordnance,
Washington, June 29, 1908.

1. Respectfully returned to Capt. Celwyn E. Hampton, Twenty-first Infantry, U. S. A., Ft. Logan, Colorado, inviting attention to preceding endorsements.

2. The sketch may be retained, but it is requested that this paper be returned for the files of this office.

By order of the Chief of Ordnance: Jno. T. Thompson,
Major, Ord. Dept., U. S. Army.

33920-56 5th Endorsement.

Fort Logan, Colorado, July 4th, 1908.

Respectfully returned to the Chief of Ordnance, U. S. Army.

From the information given in the third endorsement the inference is strong that this is the gun in question. However, as its identity still remains doubtful, I have the honor to request that this paper be sent to the other arsenals named in the first endorsement, to ascertain if any other similar guns are there stored and, if so, what inscriptions they bear and what is known of their history. In this manner it is hoped to positively identify the gun.

CELWYN E. HAMPTON,
Captain & Commissary, Twenty-first Infantry.

33920-56 6th Endorsement. J. J. C.—L. c. f.

Office of the Chief of Ordnance,
Washington, July 9, 1908.

1. Respectfully transmitted to the Commanding Officers of the Benicia, Rock Island, Frankford, New York, Watertown and Watervliet Arsenals, in the order named, for report.

By order of the Chief of Ordnance: JNO. T. THOMPSON,
Major, Ord. Dept., U. S. Army.

33920-56 7th Endorsement. 3-399 B.—AS.

Benicia Arsenal, Cal., July 16, 1908.

1. Respectfully returned to the Chief or Ordnance, U. S. Army, through the Commanding Officer, Rock Island Arsenal.

2. There are no bronze 6-pounder guns here, of English manufacture, answering within description. J. W. BENET,
Lt.-Col., Ord. Dept., U. S. A., Commanding.

33920-56 8th Endorsement. 65-146 Br.—I.

Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., July 27, 1908.

1. Respectfully returned to the Chief or Ordnance, U. S. A., through the Commanding Officer, Frankford Arsenal, with the information that there are, at this arsenal, no 6-pounder bronze guns of English manufacture, that will answer to the description. F. E. HOBBS,
Lt.-Col., Ord. Dept., U. S. A., Commanding.

33920-56 9th Endorsement. W. 4-12

Frankford Arsenal, Pa., July 30, 1908.

1. Respectfully returned to the Chief of Ordnance, U. S. A., through the Commanding Officer, New York Arsenal.

2. One bronze gun, 6-pounder, is on hand at this Arsenal, marked as follows:

No. 61. On left trunnion is the mark P 256; on the right trunnion is the mark No. 67. It is about 2 inches bore. No other marks of any kind are on the gun. FRANK HEATH,
E. R. *Colonel, Ord. Dept., U. S. A., Commanding.*

W. R. S.—Mil.

33920–56 10th Endorsement. 8939–94

New York Arsenal, N. Y., August 3, 1908.

1. Respectfully forwarded to the Chief of Ordnance, U. S. A., through the Commanding Officer, Watertown Arsenal, with report that there are no 6-pounder bronze guns at this Arsenal answering description.

O. B. Mitcham,
Lieut.-Col., Ord. Dept., U. S. A., Commanding.

S–Co.

33920–56 11th Endorsement. 128–438

Watertown Arsenal, Mass., August 10, 1908.

Respectfully returned to the Chief of Ordnance, U. S. A., through the Commanding Officer, Watervliet Arsenal, with the information that there are no bronze 6-pounder guns at this Arsenal, of British manufacture, or answering the description given within.

J. C. Nicholls,
Capt., Ord. Dept., U. S. A., Commanding.

33920–56 12th Endorsement. 23–23

Watervliet Arsenal, N. Y., August 13, 1908.

1. Respectfully returned to the Chief of Ordnance, U. S. A., Washington, D. C.

2. The gun referred to within is now at this Arsenal and has been reserved for the War College.

3. The following is the official description, as taken from the records of this Arsenal:

Field Gun, bronze, English, Cal. $3\frac{3}{4}''$.

Marks: On breech: "Taken at the battle of Niagara, July 25, 1814; 1° & Hy. King 1797;" English Arms. "Honi soit qui mal y pense. G. R." On right trunnion: No. 492. Face of breech: 6-0-2. Length: 65″. Location: South side of office walk. W. A. tag marks: 18-6 pdr. English W. C. History: Taken at the Battle of Niagara, July 25, 1814; 1° & Hy. King 1797; English Arms. Reserved for War College. Under breech; U5 481. On chase: English Arms CCCCLXXXIV.

This is thought to be the gun referred to within.

W. W. Gibson,
Lieut.-Col., Ord. Dept., U. S. A., Commanding.

33920–56 13th Endorsement. J. J. C.—L. c. f.

Office of the Chief of Ordnance,
Washington, Aug. 18, 1908.

1. Respectfully returned to Capt. Celwyn E. Hampton, Twenty-first Infantry, U. S. A., Fort Logan, Colorado, inviting attention to preceding endorsements hereon.

2. The return of this paper to this office is desired.

JNO. T. THOMPSON,
Major, Ord. Dept., U. S. Army, Acting Chief of Ordnance.

Headquarters Twenty-first Infantry,
Camp Emmet Crawford, Wyoming,
August 28th, 1908.

Commanding Officer, Watervliet Arsenal,
Watervliet, New York.

Sir:—In an endorsement dated August 13th, 1908, on a letter written by me to the Chief of Ordnance, U. S. Army, requesting information regarding a gun captured by the Twenty-first Infantry, at the battle of Lundy's Lane, July 25-26, 1814, you gave a description of a British 6-pounder now at Watervliet Arsenal. The inscription on the gun, together with the known historical facts, makes it certain that this is the one for which I am seeking.

I am very desirous of obtaining a photograph of this gun of sufficient size and clearness to show the marks on it and, if possible, the inscription. If you will have this done and send the photograph to me at Fort Logan, Colorado, I will pay all the necessary expenses and will consider your interest in the matter a great favor to myself and the Twenty-first Infantry.

Very respectfully,

CELWYN E. HAMPTON,
Captain & Commissary, Twenty-first Infantry,
Regimental Historian.

1st Endorsement. 23–24 B—p.

Watervliet Arsenal, N. Y., September 5, 1908.

1. Respectfully returned to Captain C. E. Hampton, Twenty-first Infantry, through Commanding Officer, Fort Logan, Colorado. The photographs have been made and will be forwarded under separate cover. No expense involved.

W. W. GIBSON,
Lt.-Col., Ord. Dept., U. S. A., Commanding.

2 encls. separately.

2d Endorsement.

Ft. Logan, Colo., 9-11-08.

To Capt. C. E. Hampton, Twenty-first Infantry.

THE TWENTY-FIRST'S TROPHY OF NIAGARA

The Origin of "Cadet Gray"

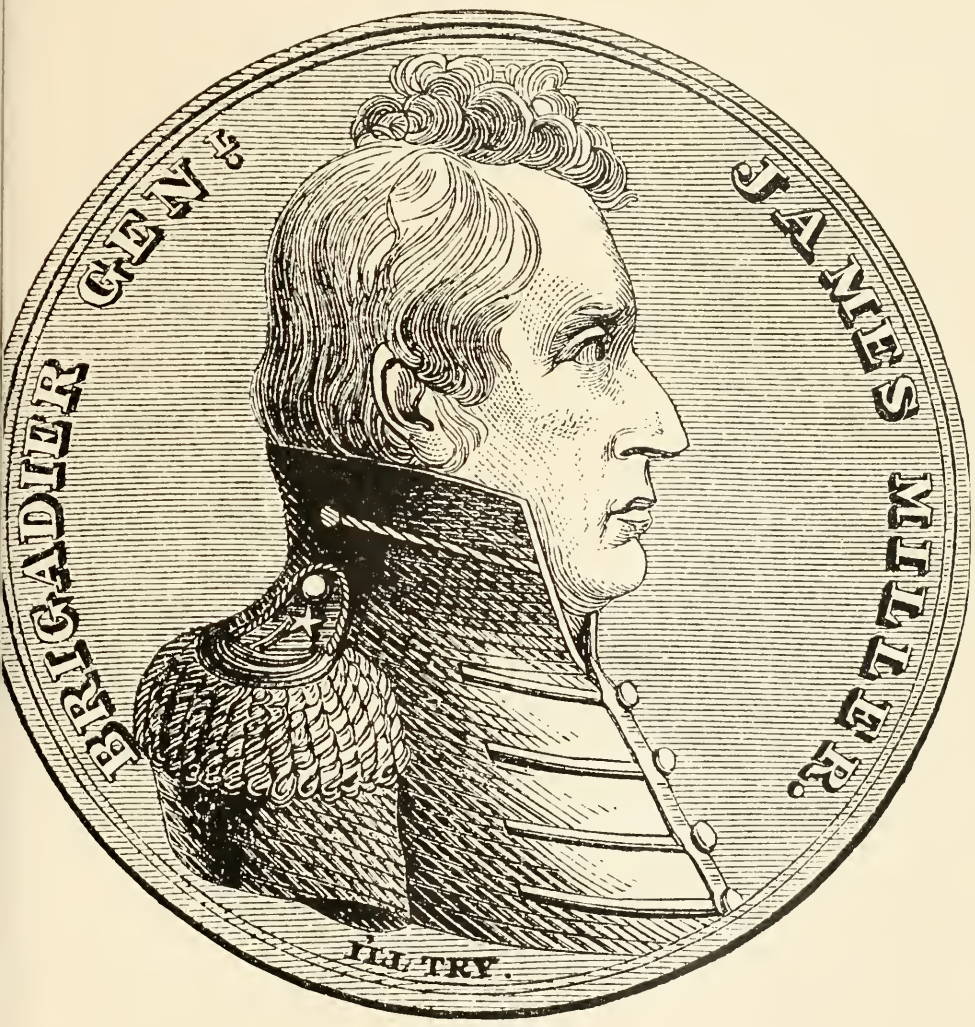
The day before the Battle of Chippewa, July 4th, 1814, there was constant contact between the opposing armies. Ours had just begun the campaign, was acting with great aggressiveness, and steadily drove its opponents before it. The Marquis of Tweeddale observed that the American troops were uniformed in gray, instead of the customary blue, and supposed that they were militia. He was surprised, therefore, at their activity and steadiness under fire, as this was something entirely foreign to his experience with that branch of our armed forces.

The following is quoted from Lossing's Field Book of the War of 1812:

"Believing Scott's troops to be only Buffalo Militia, the Marquis could account for their bravery by the fact of its being the anniversary of American Independence, which gave them patriotic inspiration and courage. He was undeceived on the following day.

"General Scott explained to the writer the cause of the marquis' mistake. While at Buffalo Scott wrote to the quartermaster for a supply of new clothing for his regulars. Word soon came back that blue cloth, such as was used in the army, could not be obtained, owing to the stringency of the blockade and the embargo, and the lack of manufacturers in the country, but that there was a sufficient quantity of gray cloth (now known as 'Cadet's Gray') in Philadelphia. Scott ordered it to be made up for his soldiers, and in these new gray suits they marched down the Niagara on Canada soil. Believing them to be only militia, Riall regarded them with contempt when preparing for battle on the 5th. Because of the victory, won chiefly by them, at Chippewa on the 5th, and in honor of Scott and his troops, that style of cloth was adopted at the Military Academy at West Point, as the uniform of the cadets."

The cadet full dress uniform is still nearly the same as that worn in 1814.



OBVERSE OF GOLD MEDAL PRESENTED BY CONGRESS
TO GENERAL MILLER

Biography of General Miller

James Miller was born at Peterborough, New Hampshire, on the 25th of April, 1776. He was educated for the bar but entered the United States Army in 1808, being commissioned Major of the Fourth Infantry on July 8th of that year. On November 30th, 1810, he was promoted to be Lieutenant-Colonel of the Fifth Infantry, but remained on duty with the Fourth, with which he performed gallant services under General Harrison in the campaign against the Indians that ended with the Battle of Tippecanoe.

In the spring of 1812 he led the Fourth to Dayton, Ohio, where he joined about 1,200 militia, and the whole force, under Brigadier General William Hull, started for Detroit. Upon their arrival there, early in July, they crossed into Canada where they were successful in some small actions, Lieut.-Colonel Miller being breveted Colonel for distinguished service at Brownstown on August 9th. However, General Hull withdrew to Detroit upon the approach of a British force under General Brock, and surrendered the place and his army on August 16th, 1812.

The prisoners were removed to Montreal, but Lieut-.Colonel Miller was exchanged in time to join in the second invasion of Canada, in the spring of 1813. He had been transferred, on September 14th, 1812, to the Sixth Infantry, and led that regiment at the capture of York (now Toronto) on April 27th, 1813, and at the capture of Fort George on May 27th, of the same year. In the fall he accompanied General Wilkinson in his fruitless campaign on the St. Lawrence River.

On March 9th, 1814, he was promoted to be Colonel of the Twenty-first Infantry and led his new regiment, which was a part of Ripley's brigade of Brown's army, in the third invasion of Canada, which took its departure from Buffalo on July 2d. He rendered valuable service at the Battle of Chippewa, on July 5th, and, with his regiment, fought most gallantly at the Battle of Niagara, on the 25th, and during the siege of Fort Erie by the British, in August and September.

He was breveted Brigadier General for distinguished service at the Battle of Niagara, July 25th, 1814, and received, by resolution of Congress passed November 3d, 1814, a gold medal "in testimony of the high sense entertained by Congress of his gallantry and good conduct in the several conflicts of Chippewa, Niagara, and Fort Erie, Upper Canada."

In consequence of the reorganization and reduction of the army at the close of the War of 1812, General Miller was transferred to the Fifth Infantry, as its Colonel, on May 17th, 1815. He resigned his commission on June 1st, 1819, and was appointed by the President to be Governor of the territory of Arkansas. This office was held by him until March, 1825, when he was appointed Collector of the Port of Salem, Massachusetts. In the latter position he served continuously and faithfully for twenty-four years, until stricken by paralysis in 1849. He then removed to Temple, New Hampshire, where, on July 4th, 1851, he was visited by a second stroke, from which death ensued on the 7th of that month.

The obverse of the gold medal presented by Congress is shown on the foregoing page. On the reverse (not shown) is a battle scene upon a slope and eminence similar in appearance to that at Lundy's Lane. Over the scene are the words "Resolution of Congress, Nov. 3, 1814." Below are the words "Battle of Chippewa, July 5, 1814; Niagara, July 25, 1814; Erie, Sept. 17, 1814."

Scoff as we may at tradition, it produces effects that are attainable in no other way. It is right for us to know and take a pride in the accomplishments of those that have gone before us. The hardships endured, the battles fought and the victories won by our regiments and companies in the past, have been endured and fought and won by our forefathers in arms. Let us make them our forefathers in sentiment as well as in fact. We will rapidly do so if the opportunity be given us. (*Silver Medal Essay, "Experiences of Our Army," Journal of the Military Service Institution, May-June*, 1905.)

In this belated, and therefore hasty, action, the creation of the resulting regiments, of which the Twenty-first was one, may be likened to the birth of the mythical Pallas Athene. Beset by the difficulties of being compelled, without a military arm, to cope with a powerful enemy, Congress smote its forehead and there sprang forth these regiments of regular troops, by whose exertions, combined with those of our navy, the war was brought to a successful conclusion, although waged under most disheartening conditions, with the result often in grave doubt.

Also, it may be truthfully said of the Twenty-first that it sprang forth mature and fully armed, for its first years form its golden age. May our posterity be enabled to recall our memories and our deeds with the pride with which we recall those of the men who fought at Chrystler's Field, at Erie and at Lundy's Lane. (*History of the Twenty-first Infantry.*)

W46

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS